

U-BOATS FOILED BY PURCHASES ABROAD

All Possible Supplies for U. S. Expeditionary Forces Are Bought in France.

LESSENS TAX ON SHIPS

Pershing Urges His Men to Subscribe Liberally to French Loan.

By the Associated Press.
 WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 15.—The army itself is helping to beat the submarine. Figures just made available show that the American expeditionary force, by paying close attention to the business end of its activities, has released the ships of the Allies of the task of carrying many thousands of tons of army material, the ships thus released for other services equally important.

This has been done through the activities of the General Purchasing Board, which has bought all the material possible on this side of the Atlantic rather than order it shipped from the United States. The magnitude of the task is shown by the figures for the first half of November, during which one of the numerous branches of the board bought in France 26,000 tons of tools and equipment, 1,000 tons of railway ties and 150 tons of cars. These purchases involved an expenditure of \$2,600,000, a sum which goes to help the industries of France while at the same time saving the cargo space of some twenty vessels of 1,600 tons each.

This saving for a single fortnight in a single army branch is illustrative of what has been done in every branch by the new purchasing service, for which Gen. Pershing is utilizing bankers and commercial experts who are anxious to do their part in France and who, under the direction of Regular Army experts, are now engaged in work similar to that which occupied them in civil life.

Work Out Supply Problem.

Long before the American troops began coming across the Atlantic in any great numbers the system for buying supplies of food had been worked out. The railroads had to have timber for ties, steel rails and rolling stock. Ships for carrying purposes had to be listed and so directed that preferred shipments could be speeded up. Vast quantities of coal had to be brought to France for the army and, if possible, the winter needs of the civilian population.

Moreover, similar work had to be done for the British, French and Italian Governments. Each army needs all it can get of everything, and the problem is that of ascertaining where the need is the greatest. This once determined, the next question is as to the lowest prices and the largest supplies. During the course of the transactions the Allies sell to one another their respective surpluses and also negotiate with neutrals.

For instance, if neutrals owning timber needed cotton or coal they were supplied and thereby transformed from complaining traders into appreciative business friends. The examples where this has been done are plentiful, but the details are not available for printing. It is a fact, however, that the new army purchasing system has played a large part in preserving the leading manufacturing industry of neutral countries to which raw material had been supplied, the army receiving in exchange urgently needed war material.

Adapt Price Fixing Policy.

The price fixing policy which the United States has adopted at home in certain articles is being carried on by the army in France, aided by shrewd use of business information and special aid from the British and French authorities. In fact, requisitions are sent to Washington only when the desired goods, supplies and materials are not obtainable in Europe.

Here is what was done about boilers, the need of which developed recently. American factories were ready to supply them and the order was about to be placed, when the board determined the boilers could be made here if raw material were available. The raw material, moreover, would take up one-tenth of the cargo space of the finished product, so plates were requisitioned and the ship bringing them carried a large quantity of other material. The boilers now are being built.

When the need of coal developed, England had plenty, but bottoms for carrying it were not available. The board promptly commandeered American vessels and now coal for the army, the Red Cross and the French civilian population is coming across the Channel at an increasingly rapid rate.

Whatever material is needed, whether

food, steel, wool, cotton or else, the board confers with its volunteer advisers, selected from the foreign branches of American commercial houses and these organizations give prompt advice with all their obtainable information. This aid also is shared with the Allies, who respond with co-ordinating efforts.

Pershing Aids French Loan.

Further evidence of the continued warm friendship between the American and the French forces is furnished by the aid Gen. Pershing is giving to make the third French war loan a success. The bonds are being sold to yield 5.33 per cent, and may be paid for in instalments. In a proclamation to the American Expeditionary Force Gen. Pershing says:

As allies, the French, their interest in the success of this loan is our own. A liberal response to their plea will mean much to our glorious allies. There were many French subscriptions to our Liberty Loan. The careful consideration of the French loan as an investment is urged on all members of the American expeditionary force. The commander in chief will be much gratified to have liberal subscriptions made by the members of his command. In appreciation of this pro-avation Gen. Pershing, chief of the French military mission sent Gen. Pershing the following letter:

"The cordial spirit of your plea, which renews the close union between our countries and conveys a pleasing compliment to the work already done by the French Government and its General commanding in chief."

Laundry Delays Surrender.

A story of how German officers are surrendering is told by an American officer just returned from the British front. One night recently a German officer crawled across No Man's Land to the British wire, raised his hands and cried, "Surrender." British soldiers covered him with rifle fire, whereupon the German said:

"Excuse me if I lower my hands, I've got a package."

The surprised Britishers granted the request and the German dropped into the trench. In his hands he had a package of laundry. He had decided to surrender a week before but had waited until his laundry came back.

A business shell has wounded two American railway engineers working behind the British front. The projectile struck in a pile of picks, shovels and other tools.

Representatives of the United States Food Administration arrived yesterday at the American army zone for a four-day visit with the troops. They were entertained at luncheon by Gen. Pershing, inspected Headquarters and then left for a billet town.

The party will be taken all over the zone, will eat, sleep and talk with the soldiers and acquire first hand information which will be used in a series of lectures in the United States to assist in the food conservation campaign. The party also will gather information concerning food conditions in the army and in France.

U. S. OFFICERS SHOW YANKEE INGENUITY

Commanders in France Know How to Cut Red Tape.

By the Associated Press.
 WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 15.—Here are two stories showing how American officers in France get things done. An artillery battery commander, having received orders to transfer his command by rail, loaded the men and their equipment and then discovered that no engine was attached to the train and none appeared available. At that moment a small freight engine arrived in the yards and its engineer and fireman, at first protesting, obeyed the battery commander's orders to take out the artillery train. This engine proving not powerful enough to move the heavy load it was permitted to proceed on its regular freight run.

A few minutes later a passenger train arriving with a much more powerful engine. This one was cheerfully commandeered by the American officer, and as a result his organization was transported on time. Available records do not indicate whether that train's passengers have gone forward as yet.

The second incident occurred the day before Thanksgiving, but has just come to light. An officer under orders to see that the necessary quantity of cranberries reached his command in time for the holiday dinner discovered that no freight train service was available. The barrels could not be moved by engine so the American bought passenger tickets, had the barrels trundled into the compartment of the car and arranged in the previously reserved seats before the astonished railway officials. The officer made his cranberry delivery in time for the dinner.

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Plain . . . \$7.85

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A Quantity of Dress Suit, Coat & Skirt Lengths

cut from this season's wanted woolen materials, in the popular colors, are on sale in the Wool Dress Goods Department, on the First Floor.

at prices that make buying an economy.

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have been made in the prices of a large number of articles especially appropriate for Christmas gifts. Included are selections of

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SPECIAL VALUES are also offered in Toilet Articles, Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Hosiery and Men's Furnishings.

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at prices to warrant active selling.

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The newest and most attractive styles in American-made Silk Sweaters are shown at prices ranging from \$27.50 to 75.00

(Third Floor)

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(Fourth Floor)

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these prices representing remarkable values.

A New Selection of Solid Mahogany Art Furniture

attractively priced for to-morrow, comprises

Tea Wagons (four-wheel model) 15.00

Occasional Tables (Chippendale model) at . . . \$12.50

Folding Tea Tables . . . 6.75

Ash Trays (for table use) . . . 2.00

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